

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184750
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184750

FOR CHARGE.CORCORAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, PFOR, LA, TH, US

SUBJECT: STATIONING VIENTIANE DEPENDENTS IN BANGKOK

1. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE, CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON, HAS SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE TO SAFE-HAVENING VIENTIANE DEPENDENTS IN BANGKOK. HE BELIEVES THAT FROM EMBASSY BANGKOK'S STANDPOINT THE BEST WAY TO ARRANGE FOR VIENTIANE DEPENDENTS TO RESIDE IN THAILAND WOULD BE TO ACCREDIT MARRIED PERSONNEL TO BOTH EMBASSIES. SUCH PERSONNEL WOULD BE ACCREDITED TO REGULAR POSITIONS IN VIENTIANE AND TO BANGKOK OVERCOMPLEMENT. WHITEHOUSE BELIEVES THE THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS PROCEDURE SO LONG AS IT INVOLVED ONLY A FEW PEOPLE.

2. DEPARTMENT SEES MERIT IN THIS APPROACH IF IT WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF KEEPING DEPENDENTS IN THAILAND. WE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 184750

DO NOT BELIEVE EMBASSY VIENTIANE WOULD NEED TO INFORM THE LAO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY OF THIS PROCEDURE. SINCE PASSPORTS WOULD SHOW BOTH OFFICIAL VISAS, HOWEVER, LAO MIGHT RAISE QUESTION WITH EMBASSY. EMBASSY COULD EXPLAIN THAI GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED ACCREDITATION TO THESE PERSONNEL WHO WILL VISIT THAILAND FREQUENTLY TO BE WITH THEIR FAMILIES.

3 WE KNOW THAT TWO EMPLOYEES NOW ON BOARD OR ASSIGNED TO VIENTIANE HAVE AN INTEREST IN THIS PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT--WIFE OF MR. HALL WITH TWO CHILDREN AND WIFE OF MR. BOARDMAN WITH NO CHILDREN. ARE YOU AWARE WHETHER ANY OTHERS MIGHT CONSIDER IT?

4. PROVISIONS FOR 3 FAM 699 WOULD GOVERN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF VISITATION TRAVEL. SIMILARLY, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE WILL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARDIZED REGULATIONS (CHAPTER 260 AND 943).

5. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT CURRENT LAO POLICY IS WITH RESPECT TO VISITORS. THE LAO EMBASSY HERE TELLS US THAT VISITORS ARE NORMALLY GRANTED A STAY OF FIFTEEN DAYS. IF FAMILIES WERE TO BE SAFEHAVENED IN BANGKOK, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO VISIT FOR TWO WEEKS AND THEN BE GRANTED EXTENSIONS WITHOUT LEAVING, OR WOULD THEY HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE LAOS AND REAPPLY?

6. FOR CHARGE CORCORAN: DO YOU CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL PRACTICABLE FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW? CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 06-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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